

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER
PROTECTION AND COMMERCE**

**TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2012**

**Wednesday, February 22, 2012
2:00 p.m.**

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1876, H.D.1, RELATING TO DENTAL
HYGIENISTS.**

**TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT N. HERKES, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

My name is Marilyn Nonaka, dental hygienist member of the Board of Dental Examiners ("Board"). The Board appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1876, H.D.1, Relating to Dental Hygienists, with comments.

The purpose of House Bill No. 1876, H.D.1, is to require a dental hygienist license to be prominently displayed at all times in the office where the dental hygienist is employed or practices. The bill was amended by the House Committee on Health to also require that an annual registration certificate be displayed.

Prominently displaying the dental hygiene license in the place of employment would contribute to the public safety by:

- Demonstrating to the public seeking dental hygiene services that the professional is licensed and qualified in the State of Hawaii to provide preventive and therapeutic services.
- Assuring employer dentists that the dental hygienist in their employ meets the professional standards for licensure as established by the State of Hawaii.

It is unclear if the intent is to require displaying the original Certificate of License in the office, but the Committee should be aware that there are many dental hygienists who are employed in more than one dental office. Therefore, displaying a copy of the Certificate of License would be more practical.

Moreover, a Certificate of License signifies that the dental hygienist received a license in the State of Hawaii. However, it does not reflect whether the license is current or not. In addition to the Certificate of License, a dental hygienist is issued a pocket I.D. card at initial licensure and renewal thereafter to indicate the expiration date of the license. Also, the pocket I.D. card reflects any special privileges, such as intra-oral infiltration and intra-oral block anesthesia, that a dental hygienist has qualified to perform. Therefore, the Committee may wish to consider requiring that the pocket I.D. card be displayed.

In amending the bill, H.D.1 requires that an annual registration certificate also be prominently displayed. Please be informed that an annual registration certificate is not issued and instead a pocket I.D. card (as mentioned above) is issued upon receiving a license on a biennial and not annual basis.

For your information, the companion bill Senate Bill No. 2013 was heard in the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and passed out with amendments. Although we have not seen the amendments to the bill, we understand that the amendment would require display of the Certificate of License and the pocket I.D. card, and allow for copies to be displayed in the workplace.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1876, H.D.1.

Testimony for HB1876 on 2/22/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 5:46 PM

To: CPCtestimony

Cc: tclegg09@gmail.com

Testimony for CPC 2/22/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1876

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Tori K. Clegg

Organization: Individual

E-mail: tclegg09@gmail.com

Submitted on: 2/20/2012

Comments:

Dear Representative Robert N. Herkes,

I am a practicing Dental Hygienist in Hawaii and I support this bill. Thank you

Testimony for HB1876 on 2/22/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 7:53 AM

To: CPCtestimony

Cc: sierraspruce@gmail.com

Testimony for CPC 2/22/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1876

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sierra Spruce
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sierraspruce@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:

Chairman Herkes,
Vice Chair Yamane and
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

Please lend your support to this important piece of legislation for dental hygienists.

I support the newly amended version of the Bill which would not only require a hygienist to display a certificate of licensure but also display the card which proves that the license is current with the Board of Dental Examiners.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

Sincerely,
Sierra Spruce, RDH
POB 6697 Ocean View, HI 96737

Re: H.B. 1876

Committee: House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Hearing Date: February 22, 2012

Time: 2:00 pm

Room: Conference Room 325

Number of copies needed:

Dear Honorable Representative Robert N. Herkes, Chair; Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee:

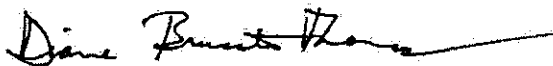
This testimony is **in support of H.B. 1876 HD1**, which would require dental hygienists, in Hawaii, to **prominently** display their license to practice, at all times, in every office in which they are employed to practice. In addition, I **support recommended wording by HBODE and HDHA to read: "A licensee shall display a certificate of licensure and the pocket card portion of the currently renewed certificate of licensure, or copies of both certificates of licensure, in his or her workplace."**

As a minimum, this measure would serve to inform the public of their clinicians' legal qualifications to safely provide dental hygiene services. Dental hygienists are:

- 1) College educated with an Associate degree or Bachelor degree as entry level;
- 2) Required to pass a written National examination;
- 3) Required to have their skills clinically tested on live patients;
- 4) Required to meet licensure criteria; and
- 5) Required to fulfill and maintain continuing education criteria.

Requiring the display of licensure is prudent and reasonable (as would be the display of dental hygiene educational degree). Thirty-three other states require display of dental hygiene license to practice as a minimal public safety standard. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Diane Brucato-Thomas, RDH, EF, BS, FAADH

President, American Academy of Dental Hygiene, 2010-12

Past President, Hawai'i Dental Hygienists' Association, 2009

First Recipient, ADHA Master Clinician Award 2008

First Recipients, RDH Sunstar Award of Distinction, 2002

HDHA Outstanding Member 1999, 2003; Dedicated Member 2008, 2011

Former Anesthesia Examiner, Western Regional Examining Board, 1990-1993

Founder, Hawai'i Institute for Wellness in Dentistry, 1994-2004

Testimony for HB1876 on 2/22/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2012 2:01 PM

To: CPCtestimony

Cc: mallerysayre@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony for CPC 2/22/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1876

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Laura Mallery-Sayre, RDH, MSDHED

Organization: Individual

E-mail: mallerysayre@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 2/19/2012

Comments:

Dear Chairman Herkes and Committee Members,

I speak in strong support of HB1876. In order to properly protect the public that we serve, it is imperative that only licensed dental hygienists provide dental hygiene services to patients. By mandating a display of licenses by these professionals, the public can be assured that indeed the individual who is providing care is licensed by the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Mallery-Sayre, R.D.H., M.S.D.H. Ed.
Dental Hygiene Member to RICCO. State of Hawaii

Testimony for HB1876 on 2/22/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 12:01 PM

To: CPCtestimony

Cc: rdhshel.mctague@gmail.com

Testimony for CPC 2/22/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1876

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Michele McTague

Organization: Individual

E-mail: rdhshel.mctague@gmail.com

Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:

I am an active practicing dental hygienist who prominently displays my credentials and would like this bill to be passed so everyone does the same to help educate public about our profession and ensure them that we are trained and license to preform necessary treatment within our field.

Testimony for HB1876 on 2/22/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 12:10 PM

To: CPCtestimony

Cc: rdhshel.mctague@gmail.com

Testimony for CPC 2/22/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1876

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Michele McTague

Organization: Individual

E-mail: rdhshel.mctague@gmail.com

Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:

I'm an active Full time dental hygienist who prominently displays my credentials for everyone to see. I want everyone to do the same to educate the general public for what our field actually are capable of doing. We are educated and perform duties within our scope of practice! Please pass this bill to prevent questions of what being trained and educated in what we do!

Testimony for HB1876 on 2/22/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 9:30 AM

To: CPCtestimony

Cc: gaylerubino@hotmail.com

Testimony for CPC 2/22/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1876

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Gayle Rubino

Organization: Individual

E-mail: gaylerubino@hotmail.com

Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:

I strongly support HB1876 requiring dental hygienists to display their licenses in their workplace.

Testimony for HB1876 on 2/22/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 10:14 AM

To: CPCtestimony

Cc: gfrubino@gmail.com

Testimony for CPC 2/22/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1876

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Giacinto Rubino

Organization: Individual

E-mail: gfrubino@gmail.com

Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:

I am a dentist, and I support HB1876 requiring dental hygienists to display their current license in their place of practice.

Testimony for HB1876 on 2/22/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 10:16 AM

To: CPCtestimony

Cc: creativeeventsetc@msn.com

Testimony for CPC 2/22/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1876

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Shana Cooney

Organization: Individual

E-mail: creativeeventsetc@msn.com

Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:

I support the measure requiring dental hygienists to display their license where they work. I want to know that the person cleaning my teeth is licensed to do so.